

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009853
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 HA-05 /035 R

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-----008437 131809Z /47
P 131726Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, TW, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON WASHINGTON POST ADVERTISEMENT
CONDEMNING POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN TAIWAN

REF: STATE 9024

1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR USE BY THE
DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN CONCERNING THE JANUARY 12 WASHING-
TON POST AD CONDEMNING POLITICAL OPPRESSION IN TAIWAN
(REFTEL):

QUOTE

QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE GROUP
THAT PLACED THE AD?

ANSWER: THE NAME OF THE GROUP IS NEW TO US, BUT MANY
OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR AS SPONSORS OF
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THE AD ARE QUITE WELL KNOWN AND INCLUDE A NUMBER OF
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS, SCHOLARS AND PUBLIC FIGURES.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT THE INFORMATION THAT APPEARS IN THE
AD, IS IT TRUE?

ANSWER: SOME OF THE STATEMENTS MADE WITH REGARD TO

ARRESTS AND TRIALS ARE INDEED TRUE AND ARE MATTERS OF PUBLIC RECORD. OTHER STATEMENTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE PARAGRAPH MARKED "SECRET ARRESTS", ARE NOT MATTERS THAT WE HAVE YET BEEN ABLE TO INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY.

QUESTION: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON TAIWAN?

ANSWER: WE BELIEVE THAT THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON TAIWAN HAS IMPROVED QUITE A BIT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, BUT THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO. WE HOPE THERE WILL BE STILL FURTHER IMPROVEMENT.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OR MAKE ADMINISTRATION VIEWS KNOWN?

ANSWER: WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENT BOTH THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN TAIPEI AND HERE IN WASHINGTON, AND THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE LEADERSHIP ON TAIWAN IS AWARE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN INDIVIDUAL CASES WE HAVE MADE FORMAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO TREATMENT ACCORDED PRISONERS. MOST RECENTLY, IN THE CASE MENTIONED IN THE ADVERTISEMENT OF TAI HUA-KUANG, LAI MING-LIEH AND LIU KUO-CHI, WHO WERE ACCUSED OF BEING MEMBERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE TAIWAN PEOPLES LIBERATION FRONT, AND OF MAILING LETTERS THREATENING VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, WE INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSY TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO THE TRIAL, WHICH WAS HELD BEFORE A MILITARY COURT. EVEN THOUGH A SELECTED GROUP OF NEWSMEN ATTENDED THE TRIAL, I AM SORRY TO SAY THAT THIS USG REQUEST WAS DELIBERATELY IGNORED.

QUESTION: WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT THAT?

ANSWER: WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR VIEWS AND CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS KNOWN TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, POINTING OUT THAT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHEN AND IF THEY OCCUR, ARE BOUND TO AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN AND COULD ALSO AFFECT THE WAY THIS GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND TO REQUESTS UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PROGRAMS. UNQUOTE.

2. THE SUBJECT WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED AT EITHER THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 12 OR THE EA BI-WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE FOR ASIAN REPORTERS, WHICH WAS

HELD LATER THE SAME DAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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